

October 22, 2010

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up-to-date on various topics.

1. Glastonbury Center 2020 – Community Workshop:

A reminder of the community workshop scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at the Riverfront Community Center. The program will include a presentation by the planning team followed by roundtable discussion. Breakout topics include transportation and circulation, streetscape improvements, site improvements-redevelopment opportunities and land use and zoning.

2. Transfer Station – Sunday Hours:

A question was asked at the October 12th meeting concerning visitors to the Transfer Station during Sunday hours each fall. The Sunday hours were implemented to assist with fall clean up by homeowners and others. Annual statistics are as follows:

2009	737
2008	950
2007	576
2006	604

For years 2006 and 2007, the program involved 5 Sundays and expanded to 6 in 2008. For the first Sunday this year, there were 35 visitors. Attendance is influenced by weather conditions.

3. Credit Card Processing:

Registration in Recreation activities is largely processed on line with fees and charges paid by credit card. A review of processing options resulted in a change in procedures that have achieved a 50% or \$4,000+ savings for the period July-September 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009. This is another example of ongoing staff efforts to reduce the cost of Town operations.

4. Grant Awards:

I am pleased to confirm 2 recent state grant awards to Glastonbury:

The first involves a \$200,000 grant for the Riverfront Park Phase II project. Combined with previous grant awards, the Town has received approval for \$1.935 million in grant funding for this project.

Second, State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded Glastonbury a \$180,000 grant for open space land acquisition. Glastonbury hosted one of the state wide grant announcements last Thursday morning at the Cider Mill. The program was attended by Governor Rell, DEP Commissioner Amey Marrella, and state and local officials.

5. Blight Ordinance:

Town staff periodically receive calls from local residents expressing concern for the deteriorating condition of properties within the community and seeking Town assistance with corrective action. This can include the condition of the grounds and/or structure. In some case a property is abandoned. The pros and cons of a blight ordinance have been discussed previously. To fully review this matter, I will appreciate a referral to the Policy & Ordinance Review Committee. I would also seek input from the Town Attorney. Basically, I would like to formally review all reasonable options available to the Town in such situations.

6. Magnet School Groundbreaking:

A reminder that the groundbreaking for the new Glastonbury-East Hartford Magnet School building is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, October 27th. Refreshments are available at 8:00 a.m. with the formal program beginning at 8:30 a.m.

7. Buckingham PAD:

The major amendment to the Buckingham PAD, approved by Council in 2008, includes a condition requiring the applicant to return to the PAD Subcommittee for review of roof top units not longer than 6 month after completion of the project. The purpose of this condition is to determine if additional screening of roof top units is necessary. The joint Council/TP&Z PAD Subcommittee met on October 14th and concluded that additional screening of roof top units is not necessary. Accordingly, unless advised otherwise, this condition is considered fulfilled.

8. Public Information Hearing:

The Council public information hearing on the preliminary master plans for the Town owned Arbor Acre and Grayledge Farm properties is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10th in Council Chambers. I have attached a copy of the letter forwarded to property owners in the general area of both parcels. The hearing will also include comments on the Town-owned Winter Hill Farm site. This will be a Special Meeting of the Council.

9. Minnechaug Golf Course:

The Town currently receives \$40,000 in annual lease revenues and 10% of operation revenues in excess of \$275,000. Historically these revenues were deposited to the General Fund. During the current year budget process, I suggested a Special Revenue Fund be established to receive revenues and have such funds available for ongoing course maintenance/improvements considered the responsibility of the Town. This approach was supported. By unanimous action at its Wednesday, October 20th meeting, the Board of Finance approved the transfer to establish this Fund. Council action is not required but I wanted to confirm this approach. Effective with the coming year, a Special Revenue budget will be included in the budget document.

I will be happy to review the preceding and any other items Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

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attachments